



Golden Dragon Gazette

1st Battalion 14th Infantry

Battalion Newsletter

34th Edition

September 2004

DRAGON FIRE

Aloha from Iraq!

Dear Golden Dragon Family
and friends,

Well, after many months of fast paced operations all over IRAQ, August has been a welcome slow down for the GOLDEN DRAGONS. After returning from to NAJAF, the entire Battalion is now located on Forward Operating Base WARRIOR. We have resumed duties in AO REAPER south of the city protecting the southern flank of the Brigade. We are also providing the Division Reserve force prepared to deploy anywhere, any time—this has become our hallmark.

While there are many challenges to security in Iraq, the country continues progress toward true freedom and security. The primary security focus in August was insuring violence did not disrupt the IRAQI National Congress – a

major milestone toward elections and a fully Iraqi government. During focused security operations to prevent disruption of this congress, the DRAGONS have run a variety of security operations. We have also resumed our training of and working with IRAQI Security Forces in the area. Training these forces is crucial to long term success in IRAQ.

While the battalion had operations to conduct, the another focus was on LEAVE and getting established at FOB WARRIOR. While B & HCC have had many soldiers go on leave, the remainder of the unit concentrated on getting our Life Support Areas set up and a lot of maintenance on our equipment. One of the biggest tasks was getting all our Container Housing Units or CHU's sand bagged in for protection. This is a physically demanding task that takes a long time. It takes numerous sandbags to protect us. But like true DRAGONS, our soldiers

have quietly and diligently gotten the job done.

As September approaches, our soldiers have returned from leave. We sincerely hope those of you who had time with your loved ones enjoyed and cherished every minute. Soon, most of our soldiers will have had the privilege of leave – the same as the rest of the Brigade. It is possible that we will get more leave opportunities later.

We hope you all have had a safe and enjoyable summer. Every day your GOLDEN DRAGON soldiers perform their duties to incredible standards – always earning the position of honor at THE RIGHT OF THE LINE! Our greatest strength to do our duty comes from our families.

As always, keep us in your hearts and prayers as we do you in ours.

Sincerely,
Dragon 6



"HEADHUNTERS" COMPANY

FROM THE COMMANDER:

ALOHA everyone!

Once again we're back to FOB. No one knows for how long before we have to hit the road on another adventure. As we arrived, the Company executed the leave plan. This month the Company received many slots for leave, and there are possibilities of receiving more later. Let's wait and see. If we are ordered to hit the road again, it might affect the leave plan, so we must be prepared for any changes. As you know, nothing is guaranteed in this environment.

This Newsletter we have tried something different by pasting each individual platoon paragraph. So let's see what news they have:

SUPPORT PLATOON:

Platoon Leader: 1LT Eaton,
Platoon Sergeant: SSG Gomez

During the month of June, 1-14 IN was again given the mission to conduct stability and support operations and limited combat operations. Following the platoon's movement back down

south, the platoon re-established its base of operations in FOB Duke where the platoon pushed out daily LOGPACS to FOB Hotel and FOB Echo. The platoon did an outstanding job getting fuel, water, food, ammo, and everything else the companies needed in order to be successful. In August, Support Platoon and the rest of HHC, 1-14 IN (L) returned 'home,' where the platoon has picked up operations. These operations include route clearance along main supply routes, escort missions, and other on call patrolling operations. There have been several significant events in support platoon's family over the last month.

Several of our Soldiers celebrated summer birthdays: SPC Conrad; PFC Martinez; SPC Elmer; SPC Sharp; and PV2 Bean. All the soldiers of Support Platoon, 1-14 IN, have been doing an outstanding job making sure the job gets done.

SCOUTS PLATOON:

Platoon Leader: 1LT Barglof
Platoon Sergeant: SFC Sitzler

The scouts had a very busy July to say the least. In June, the scouts rolled out on deployment, conducting various watch and security missions. Midway threw the deployment the scouts bid a sad farewell to their platoon leader 1LT Hudson as SFC Sitzler took over as the platoon leader and everything was smooth sailing.

Upon re-deploying to FOB Warrior, the Scout's welcomed 1LT Barglof. We are glad to have 1LT Barglof and are sure he will soon meet the Scout standards.

ANTI TANK PLATOON:

Platoon Leader:
1LT Vetter
Platoon Sergeant:
SFC Woody Smith

The platoon has added a new member, 1LT Vetter. We wish best of luck to the outgoing platoon leader, 1LT Midles. SFC Smith and SPC Tulluch took some deserved leave recently. After many hours on the road, we arrived at a completely different Najaf than the one we had left few months early. Living conditions have improved considerably since then. The internet café is set up with phones included allowing the Company to stay in touch with significant others.

MORTARS PLATOON:

Platoon Leader: 1LT Pyun,
Platoon Sergeant: SFC Cambre

Greetings from Iraq! We have just returned from deployment while the rest of the battalion. Those weeks kept our platoon extremely busy and the time went by very quickly. The platoon conducted joint Iraqi National Guard patrols, The Joint Coordination Center was established, and everyone trained the Iraqi Security Forces.

Also congratulations to SGT Mireles on his well deserved promotion.

*Well, there you have it,
information straight from the
soldiers on the line.
MAHALO!*

*CPT Duran
1LT Midles
1SG Rivera*

FRG NEWS:

We would like to thank everyone who participated in our August Bowling Event. We had a good turnout and everyone had a good time. Thanks!

Events for September:

Our next FRG Meeting September 17th at the Schofield ACS. We would love for everyone to submit their favorite recipe or recipes so we may compile an 1-14 HHC FRG Cookbook. Please submit recipes via email to wjmemitchell@earthlink.net or frghhc114@hotmail.com. If you have any questions, please contact your POC.



ALPHA "ANIMALS" COMPANY

Contact Information

CPT Pangelinan
Battalion Chaplain: 655-1876
BN SDNCO: 655-4897

COMMANDER'S NOTES:

Aloha from sunny Iraq! The Soldiers from A Company are back at FOB WARRIOR. This month was an extremely busy and very productive one. We re-deployed from our mission and occupied our new home here. We now live in Container Housing Units (CHUs) with real beds, climate control, and space to store our belongings. Quality of life for our soldiers at FOB WARRIOR is the best that we have had since we came to Iraq.

After a recovery and rest period, we immediately reoccupied our old area of operations. The people of this area were very happy to see us back. We conducted a number of good operations in the area and continued to improve the quality of life for the Iraqi people. We also continued to assist in the training and development of Iraqi police and Iraqi National Guard so that in the future they can provide security for themselves.

Our region is different from other regions in Iraq in that it is becoming a real success story. Our soldiers are truly making a difference in the lives of the people. The local communities are becoming more and more self-sufficient and Iraqis are beginning to take ownership of their future. This is not the bleak story of the war that you see on the news daily. It is a reality full of hope and

promise that your loved ones are creating for the people of Iraq in our region.

I want to very sincerely thank Marie, who has very generously volunteered her time. CPT Altavilla recently completed a very successful command.

At the end of August we said farewell to 1LT Reed. We received a number of new Reapers this month. We welcome 2LT Brogan, SSG Morales, SGT Fernandez; PFC Riveros; and PV2 Turley. Welcome to you all. We are happy to have you join the Reaper family.

To all of our loved ones who await us at home, I thank you most sincerely on behalf of everyone in Alpha Company. You are our reason for being, our reason for serving, and all of our happiness. Thank you for all the love and support that you give to us daily. Each day is one day closer to that Alpha Company family reunion. Thank you for your endless courage and patience.

CPT Pangelinan

FRG News:

Dear Alpha Company Families,

I hope that this letter finds you well. If you haven't already heard, I am your new FRG representative and I am eager to get to know you as we prepare for the guys' upcoming re-deployment.

I would like to thank the POC's Hillary, Anissa, Fran, and Jessica who have kept

things running over the past few months, they have recently updated me on how information has been flowing. Please be assured that all procedures will remain the same. If there is anything we can do for you, let us know! Please don't hesitate to let me or your POC know if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Marie



“BUSHMASTERS” COMPANY

Contact Information
1SG Michael Neill

From the Commander:

Greetings from Iraq,

First, I would like to thank the Bushmaster family for giving me a warm welcome to the team. Change is always difficult, CPT Altavilla definitely set the standard as a great command team. I will strive to serve as well as they have. It is a great honor and privilege to have this opportunity to serve with the “Bushmasters” and their families.

This has been a great month for the Bushmasters as we were able to send home many soldiers from the company on R&R Leave. I know that all of you will cherish this time with your spouses, as they also get a chance to unwind after many months of non-stop operations. For the rest of us staying in Iraq during the R&R period, we have had a relatively easy workload. Some of our time is spent filling sandbags to improve force protection in our living area, and also helping the Battalion to accomplish its mission by providing rifle squads to secure key locations in the Battalion's Area of Operation.

As your spouses return from R&R leave, it is uncertain what missions lay ahead for the Bushmasters. Currently, we are scheduled to continue operations to help maintain stability in the area as the Interim Iraqi Government and the Iraqi people move towards the pivotal elections in January. The enemy has a vote, however, and the Bushmasters may be called on again to move to any location in Iraq to conduct combat and stability operations to defeat Anti Iraqi Forces and maintain a safe and secure environment for the Iraqi people. Regardless of the exact mission, rest assured that the Bushmasters remain trained and ready for any mission, and that their efforts will never be in vain.

Again, I am honored to be a part of the Bushmaster family, and look forward to getting to know each and every one of you. Thank you for your patience and sacrifice, and everything that you all do to serve our great soldiers and our country.

Sincerely,
Bushmaster 6

FRG News:

Aloha Bushmaster Families,

Hope this finds everyone doing well. I want to thank each one of you for the delicious food that you brought to the last meeting. I know how hard it is to prepare a meal when there are little ones around.

If your spouse was able to come home for R&R last month, I am sure that your time spent together was special and uplifting. ☺ For the rest of us, we continue to count down the days until our spouses return!

Our next FRG meeting will be on Thursday, September 16th at 6:00 PM in the battalion classroom. We will talk a little about upcoming holidays. Please bring some ideas to share. If you would like, bring a dish to share. We really had a nice get together last month and I am looking forward to seeing you there.

Please call us if we can help in anyway. ☺

Aloha,
Melissa and Sandy



“Charlie Rock”

Contact Information: CPT Battista; 1SG Tracy

Dear Family and Friends of
Charlie Rock,

Since this is the first letter that I have written as the new commander of Charlie Rock, let me reiterate all of the good things that you have heard about this outstanding company and the excellent group of Soldiers that make it. I can tell you that as I took command of this company and tried to get my feet underneath me, operations in this company did not skip a beat. The leaders and soldiers of this company carried on with minimal guidance, continuing to add to the long lists of accomplishments that they have achieved since being deployed.

Our operational tempo has not slowed down. Your loved ones continue to patrol, providing security for the local towns and FOB Warrior itself. We have been filling lots of sandbags this month, as part of our effort to make our living quarters a safer place.

As you already know, most of our Soldiers will be able to go on leave soon. This will be a well deserved and well earned break for those that will be taking it. The 1SG and I will coordinate as the leave dates get closer. I also send my thanks for the continued support that you provide in the forms of email, letters, and packages. I am truly honored to be a part of this great family.

Rock 6

Family and Friends,

It's been sometime since I have written, and for that I apologize. As all of you know we as a company have been very busy, and as usual your loved ones have preformed superbly. They have continued to show a resolve that is unmatched by any other soldiers that I have seen, you should all be proud of your loved ones. I have never worked with a finer group of Soldiers. As the commander said we should be making the transition to a period of leave for the company. As of now our leave is projected to start soon. This means many in the company will have taken leave. We hope that the remainder of the Soldiers will receive leave later, but of course the enemy has a say so as to whether any of us will get leave.

August was a significant month for the company. We conducted a change of command. We have said goodbye to CPT Godinez and have welcomed CPT Battista to the company. CPT Battista is no stranger to the Golden Dragons, he has been with us for many months and I know he will be a great commander.

In closing I want to thank each of you for your continued support of the company, we could not be what we are with out you, the families standing at our sides, each of you make mine and the commander's job that much easier. Thank You.

Rock 7



NOTE FROM THE CHAPLIN:

Tips for a Happy Marital Relationship

First, a couple must learn to pray together. Many couples get married thinking, “What can I get out of this marriage” instead of thinking what can I do to give “all” for my spouse. I also heard of “groom to be” stating, “I will fix her when I tie the knot”. These are recipes for a marriage disaster. Couples who pray together stay together. When you pray together, you are focusing on God to solve the problem. Couples must put their pride and set it aside before going to the Lord. It is no longer what I get for myself but now “how can we both benefit together as a family”. Always focus on God not on your spouse.

Second, clear communication is the key to a successful marriage. Have an open and honest conversation about expectations. You cannot possibly meet all your spouse expectations if you don't know what they are. Talk about it and write it down.

Third, you have to realize that man and woman are different. We approached problems differently. Men tend to compartmentalize problems. They deal with one problem at a time. Women have difficulty separating emotion from conversation. Women may raise their voice, cry, or be excited when speaking about their problems. It reminds me of a story about a man who

accompanied his wife to the delivery room. During the delivery, the husband was called every degradable and intolerable name imaginable but after the delivery his wife apologized for her actions, and was once again a darling husband. Acknowledge these differences and you will prevent many potential problems in your relationship.

Fourth, women make the mistake of placing their children above their husband. It is a great disservice when the husband is set aside. God instituted marriage first, followed by children. It is important to invest in your marital relationship as opposed to allowing your kids to define the family. Find a child caregiver and go out on a date, walk on the beach, stroll in the shopping mall holding hands, or have dinner together. Be romantic.

Fifth, couples managed your money wisely. "Bigger and Better" places significant financial stress on marital relationship. Stay out of debt. Live within your means. Embracing simplicity and not living beyond your means are ways to prevent your marriage from disintegrating.

God Bless You! Have a wonderful marital relationship.

Chaplain Flores



BE IN THE KNOW... SPOUSE INFO NOTES

Editors Note: Please be aware that you may obtain all of this information from other sources. Check out the full Spouses Info Notes online at www.25idl.army.mil, check out the Army Weekly or Channel 2 (on post), ACS, or DCA magazine *Discovery*.

MWR Events:

NOTE: For a current listing of all MWR activities and events, please visit www.MWRarmyhawaii.com.

Helping Out Others Around the House (HOOAH)

This program is designed to assist families with jobs that need to be completed around the house. Local teens can assist with lawn mowing, car washing, taking out the trash, dish washing, raking leaves, baby sitting and other chore related activities that families may be in need of completing. If you would like to request the service of a local teen, please call 655-0451.

Richardson Pool

Richardson Pool is open everyday from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Dive off the diving boards, rent water toys, slide down the slid, and enjoy the snack bar. Active duty soldiers swim for free and entry charges for family members are \$1/person daily or \$12/person or \$20 a month per family. For more information call 655-9698.

Infant Play & Learn

Infant Play & Learn is a weekly play group for infants 0-12 months and their parents. This program

combines an infant sage play area with short learning sessions about various topics from growth and development to nutrition. Members of this group will have opportunity to participate together in enjoyable developmental activities during free play and circle time activities. It is a great chance to share experiences with other Moms and Dads while learning helpful parenting skills. Every Tuesday 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Schofield Barracks, ACS, Bldg 2091. Call 655-2400 for more information.

Spouse's Night Out

This free adults-only program is designed to get you out of the house every Thursday night from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. to have some fun! MWR Blue Star Card holders will receive FREE childcare from 6 – 9 p.m. by reservation only at Peterson Child Care Center. Call 655-3929 by noon of the Tuesday prior to each Thursday event to make your childcare reservations. Childcare reservations can be made two weeks in advance. Pre-Registration for classes is required, please call 655-2736.

Armed Forces Vacation Club

DOD affiliated personnel and their relatives can take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. This "space available" program provides affordable condominium vacations at resorts around the world for only \$259 per unit, per week. Complete details and reservations are made on-line at www.afvclub.com.

Junior Bowling Summer Programs:

Schofield Bowl

Learn or practice bowling, for ages 5 to 21, beginners welcome! No registration necessary, just show up and check in at 8:30 a.m., bowling starts at 9:00 a.m. The cost is \$5 a week and includes three games and shoe rental. For more information, call 655-0541 or 623-3009.

Fort Shafter Bowl

Junior Bowling is available every Saturday all year long. Fort Shafter Bowl has a summer program that consists of instruction for beginners and bowling techniques for experienced Jr. Bowlers. Call 438-6733 for more information. The best time to call is Saturday Mornings from 0830 a.m. - 1130 a.m. - or come to the FS Bowling Center.

Health News

LTC Newson 433-8509

Fax 433-8505

Monday – Thursday
7:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Friday
7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Saturday
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Shopping

Mon – Fri
0800-0900 Early Bird
0900-2000 Regular Shopping

Sat – Sun
0700-0800 Early Bird
0800-1900 Regular Shopping

Thrift Shop

Fort Shafter Thrift Shop **842-1074**

Thrift Shop hours for Tuesdays, Fridays and the 1st Saturday of each month are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. New consignment hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Fridays only.

Schofield Thrift Shop **624-3254**

Thrift Shop hours for Tuesdays, Thursdays and the 1st Saturday of each month are 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Consignments hours are now everyday 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. We will gladly consign your gently used, good quality items, up to 15 items per day (clothing limited to 10 items per day).

Community Chapels

**Schofield Barracks Area –
including HMR**

Deployment Support Night will be held at the chapel on the last Wednesday of each month.

Crossroads Coffeehouse is emphasizing ministry to families of deployed Soldiers in the coming months. Please announce to your Family Readiness Groups (FRG's) that they are encouraged to schedule brief meetings and have fun time at the Coffeehouse. Point of contact for scheduling is Chaplain Conway at 655-9355. Crossroads is open every Friday at Ka'ala Recreation Center on Schofield (same building as ITR). It is open from 6-10 p.m. and has live bands, games, putt-putt golf, pool, videos, cappuccino, snacks, fellowship and Bible study. Twice a month there is live music. All Free!

Crossroads Tea Room is open for you on Friday evenings, 7:00-9:00 p.m. It is located at Crossroads Coffeehouse in the Ka'ala Rec. Center. This inviting room is a haven for spouses of deployed Soldiers. It's a place where you'll find encouragement and hope during challenging times. In addition to your tea/sodas/snacks (free), you'll find a place of rest and inspiration. Children are welcome to join you and can play in a safe and fun area while you supervise and simply enjoy friendship and peace. NOTE: FRG leaders are especially invited to come and see this Tea Room and share the information with their units.

Protestant Women of the Chapel meets Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. in room D9 at the Main Post Chapel, Bldg 791.

Bible Club will take a break for the summer and resume in the fall.

Protestant Youth Groups meet on Sundays. The Middle School youth group meets from 4-5:30 p.m. at the Main Post Chapel. Call CH Baum for more information at 655-9307.

Catholic Youth Ministry Team meets on Sundays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Main Post Chapel Center. Anyone in grades 8-12 is welcome. Call the Chapel Center at 655-9307 for more information.

Sunday School classes for all ages will resume in the fall. For more information, call 655-6645.

Women's Evening Bible Study is available Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Military Council of Catholic

Women (MCCW) meets at AMR chapel for Mass and Bible studies on Fridays.

Fort Shafter Area – including AMR and Ft DeRussy

Sunday School is available for all ages.

Bible Club meets Sunday at 4:30 p.m.

Protestant Women of the Chapel meets Tuesdays at 9 a.m.

Military Council of Catholic

Women (MCCW) meets for Mass and Bible studies on Thursdays.

Gospel Adults meet on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. for Bible study.

Gospel Women's Fellowship

meets once each month on the 2nd Saturday at alternating member's homes.

Armed Services YMCA – Wheeler

PLAYMORNING

This mobile playgroup is designed for children up to age 5 and their parents or caregivers. Play morning features circle time, play-doh, crafts, songs, games and more. The program is held from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the following locations:

Monday –

Wheeler ASYMCA, 782 Santos Dumont Ave
Heleman Community Center, Bldg. P1
AMR ASYMCA, 1875 Aliamanu

Tuesday-

Fort Shafter Super Playground

Wednesday –

Wheeler ASYMCA, 782 Santos Dumont Ave
AMR ASYMCA, 1875 Aliamanu

Thursday –

Heleman Community Center, Bldg. P1

Friday –

Wheeler ASYMCA, 782 Santos Dumont Ave
AMR ASYMCA, 1875 Aliamanu

Call 624-5645 for details about Wheeler and HMR sites and 833-1185 for information on the AMR and Ft. Shafter sites.

Sunshine Generation

This is an affordable performing arts program for children 3-12 years old. The curriculum includes singing, dancing, and showmanship. New classes start soon.

Food for Families

Our food locker is available to anyone in need. Donations of unopened canned and boxed food are also welcome. Call our office for more information.

Welcome Baby

We have a home visitor who is available to provide support and information to expectant and new parents. Please call YMCA at 624-5645 for assistance.

Miscellaneous

Blue Star Deployment Card is a special discount card available to support families of deployed Soldiers. This card entitles the user to numerous discounts at MWR facilities, such as child and youth services, and other activities and events. These cards are available at the Installation Access Pass (IAP) offices, which are operational 7 days a week from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The Leilehua IAP office has begun to

offer extended hours (9:00 a.m.- 7:30 p.m.) on Wednesdays. For more info, please call 655-1620.

R & R Specials for OIF/OEF

Pililaau Army Recreation Center in Waianae – Receive 50% off regular cottage rates. Call 808-696-6783 to make reservations today! Eligible soldier's must be accompanied by a Blue Star Card Holder upon check-in.

Hale Koa Hotel in Waikiki – Receive 30% off a discount on all available room categories, dining and entertainment events of your choice (Hale Koa Luau, Magic in Paradise, and Tama's Polynesian Revue.) Call 808-955-0555 to make reservations or visit www.halekoa.com. Eligible personnel must mention at time of reservations that they will be using the R&R or Leave Program. A copy of leave orders is required at the time of check-in.

We encourage any and all ideas or suggestions to improve the newsletter. Contact your FRG POC.

MEMORANDUM FOR
Soldiers of the Warrior
Brigade Combat Team

SUBJECT:
Warrior Note #6

Ever since we departed Hawaii in January, I have carried three items in the cargo pocket of my uniform: A cross of yarn made by the Mahaka Valley Chapel as a symbol of my faith; a unit coin that symbolizes my service to my nation and unit; and a small "Bob the Builder" toy construction figure given to me by my child that serves as a symbol of my love for my family. Many of you have shown me similar items that you always carry with you... pictures of loved ones; religious medallions; good luck charms; and many other reminders of home and family.

No words of mine could adequately describe all that you have accomplished in Iraq, but if I could speak directly to your loved ones at this point in the deployment, I would tell them you have conducted numerous patrols; conducted hundreds of raids and searches; and captured tons of enemy ammunition and weapons. You've performed

heroically under direct fire, rocket attacks, and roadside bombs, and you have done it in the cold drizzle of the Iraqi winter, and the suffocating heat of the Iraqi summer.

I would also tell your loved ones that success in this mission could never be measured in numbers alone. The intangibles can never be counted. Someday, a new generation of Iraqis will tell their children and grandchildren about the American soldiers. They will tell them that you gave them first aid when they were hurt, and handed out candy whenever you came around. They will tell them about the schools you helped to build; and the toys you handed out in the streets; and how easily they beat you in soccer. They will also tell them that you treated them fairly and gave them hope for the future. The bottom line is that Iraq is a better place because of the sacrifices you make everyday.

Finally, I would tell your loved ones that I am proud of them too. They have also made many sacrifices during this mission. They have spent numerous hours volunteering time and energy; fighting the daily

battle at home; and providing us with letters, packages, and encouragement. The next time you call home, please tell your loved ones how proud and thankful we are for their service too.

In his memoirs, General Omar Bradley wrote these words about freedom: "...no word was ever spoken that has held out greater hope, demanded greater sacrifice, blessed more the giver, damned more its destroyer, or come closer to being God's will on earth. And I think that's worth fighting for, if necessary." I agree. In spite of what some of the critics might say about this war back home, your service to this country is noble and I am reassured of this belief every time I see an Iraqi child smile. As you conduct your daily missions, remember to stay focused. Be tough. Be disciplined.

WARRIOR 6